TAHC – SEPTEMBER 2005 REPORT

CHAPTER 2.X.X.

AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

Article 2.x.x.1.

For the purposes of this *Terrestrial Code*, the *infective period* for African horse sickness (AHS) shall be 40 days for domestic horses.

All countries or *zones* adjacent to a country or *zone* not having free status should determine their AHS status from an ongoing surveillance programme (in accordance with Appendix 3.8.X.). The surveillance should be carried out over a distance of at least 100 kilometres from the border with that country or *zone*, but a lesser distance could be acceptable if there are relevant ecological or geographical features likely to interrupt the transmission of AHS.

Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 2.x.x.2.

AHS free country or zone

1. A country or a *zone* may be considered free from AHS when the disease is notifiable in the whole country and either:

    a) the country or *zone* is not adjacent to a country or *zone* not having a free status; or

    b) *historical freedom* as described in Appendix 3.8.1. has demonstrated no evidence of AHS in the country or *zone*; or

    c) a surveillance programme as described in Appendix 3.8.X. has demonstrated no evidence of AHS in the country or *zone* during the past 2 years, including in wildlife; or

    d) a surveillance programme has demonstrated no evidence of *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors in the country or *zone*.

2. An AHS free country or *zone* in which surveillance has found no evidence that *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors are present will not lose its free status through the importation of vaccinated or seropositive animals, semen or embryos from infected countries or *zones*.

3. An AHS free country or *zone* in which surveillance has found evidence that *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors are present will not lose its free status through the importation of vaccinated or seropositive domestic horses from infected countries or *zones*, provided:

    a) the animals have been vaccinated, in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual,* at least 40 days prior to dispatch with a vaccine which covers all serotypes whose presence in the source population has been demonstrated through a surveillance programme as described in Appendix 3.8.X., and that the animals are identified in the accompanying certification as having been vaccinated; or

    b) the animals are not vaccinated, and a surveillance programme as described in Appendix X.X.X. has been in place in the source population for a period of at least 40 days

immediately prior to dispatch, and no evidence of AHS has been detected.

4. An AHS free country or *zone* should be protected from an adjacent infected country or *zone* by a *buffer zone* in which surveillance is conducted as described in Appendix X.X.X.

Article 2.x.x.3.

AHS seasonally free zone

1. An AHS seasonally free *zone* is a part of an infected country or *zone* for which for part of a year, surveillance and *monitoring* demonstrate no evidence either of AHS transmission or of adult *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors.

2. For the application of Articles 2.x.x.7., 2.x.x. 10. and 2.x.x. 14., the seasonally free period is taken to commence the day following the last evidence of AHS transmission (as demonstrated by the surveillance programme), or of the cessation of activity of adult *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors.

3. For the application of Articles 2.x.x.7., 2.x.x. 10. and 2.x.x. 14., the seasonally free period is taken to conclude either:

   a) at least 28 days before the earliest date that historical data show AHS virus activity has recommenced; or

   b) immediately if current climatic data or data from a surveillance and monitoring programme indicate an earlier resurgence of activity of adult *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors.

4. An AHS seasonally free *zone* in which surveillance and monitoring has found no evidence that *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors are present will not lose its free status through the importation of vaccinated or seropositive animals, semen or embryos from infected countries or *zones*.

5. An AHS seasonally free *zone* in which surveillance and monitoring has found evidence that *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors are present will not lose its free status through the importation of vaccinated or seropositive domestic horses from infected countries or *zones*, provided:

   a) the animals have been vaccinated in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual* at least 40 days prior to dispatch with a vaccine which covers all serotypes whose presence in the source population has been demonstrated through a surveillance programme as described in Appendix 3.8.X., and that the animals are identified in the accompanying certification as having been vaccinated; or

   b) the animals are not vaccinated, and a surveillance programme as described in Appendix X.X.X. has been in place in the source population for a period of at least 40 days immediately prior to dispatch, and no evidence of AHS has been detected.

Article 2.x.x.4.

AHS infected country or zone

An AHS infected country or *zone* is a clearly defined area where evidence of AHS has been reported during the past 2 years.

Article 2.x.x.5.

Veterinary Administrations of countries shall consider whether there is a risk with regard to AHS infection in accepting importation or transit through their territory, from other countries, of the following *commodities*:

1. equines;

2. equine semen;

3. equine embryos;

4. *pathological material* and biological products (from these species) (see Chapter 1.4.5. and Section 1.5.).

Other *commodities* should be considered as not having the potential to spread AHS when they are the subject of *international trade*.

Article 2.x.x.6.

When importing from AHS free countries or *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

<u>for domestic horses</u>

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of shipment;

2. have not been vaccinated against AHS within the last 40 days;

3. were kept in an AHS free country or *zone* since birth or for at least 40 days prior to shipment;

AND

4. either:

   a) did not transit through an infected country or *zone*; or

   b) were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors at all times when transiting through an infected country or *zone*.

Article 2.x.x.7.

When importing from AHS free countries or *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for other equines

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of shipment;

2. have not been vaccinated against AHS within the last 40 days;

3. were kept in an AHS free country or *zone* since birth or for at least 40 days prior to shipment;

AND

if the animal originates from a *zone* or country adjacent to a *zone* or country considered infected with AHS:

4. were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors for at least 40 days prior to shipment; and, either:

    a) were subjected during that period to a serological test according to the *Terrestrial Manual* to detect antibody to the AHS group, with negative results on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 7 days between each test, the first test being carried out at least 21 days after introduction into the *quarantine station*; or

    b) were subjected during that period to an agent identification test according to the *Terrestrial Manual* with negative results, on blood samples taken on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 7 days between each test, the first test being carried out at least 7 days after introduction into the *quarantine station*;

5. were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors during transportation to and at the place of shipment.

Article 2.x.x.8.

When importing from AHS seasonally free *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for domestic horses

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. were kept during the seasonally free period in an AHS seasonally free *zone* for at least 40 days prior to shipment;

2. have not been vaccinated against AHS within the past 40 days;

AND

3. either:

    a) did not transit through an infected country or *zone*; or

    b) were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors at all times when transiting through an infected country or *zone*.

Article 2.x.x.9.

When importing from AHS infected countries or *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for domestic horses

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors for at least 40 days prior to shipment; or

2. were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors for at least 28 days prior to shipment, and were subjected during that period to a serological test in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual* to detect antibody to the AHS group, with negative results on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 7 days between each test, the first test being carried out at least 21 days after introduction into the *quarantine station*; or

3. were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors for at least 14 days prior to shipment, and were subjected during that period to an agent identification test in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual* with negative results, on blood samples taken on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 7 days between each test, the first test being carried out at least 7 days after introduction into the *quarantine station*;

AND

4. have not been vaccinated against AHS within the last 40 days;

5. were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors during transportation to and at the place of shipment.

Article 2.x.x.10.

When importing from AHS free countries or *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for semen of domestic horses

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the donor animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of collection of the semen and for the following 40 days;

2. had not been vaccinated against AHS within 40 days of the day of collection;

3. were kept in an AHS free country or *zone* for at least 40 days before commencement of, and during collection of the semen.

Article 2.x.x.11.

When importing from AHS seasonally free *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for semen of domestic horses

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the donor animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of collection of the semen and for the following 40 days;

2. were not vaccinated against AHS within 40 days of the day of collection;

3. were kept during the seasonally free period in an AHS seasonally free *zone* for at least 40 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen.

Article 2.x.x.12.

When importing from AHS infected countries or *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for semen of domestic horses

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the donor animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of collection of the semen and for the following 40 days;

2. were not vaccinated against AHS within 40 days of the day of collection;

3. were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors for at least 40 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen.

Article 2.x.x.13.

When importing from AHS free countries or *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for *in vivo* derived embryos of domestic horses

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the donor females:

   a) showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of collection of the embryos and for the following 40 days;

   b) have not been vaccinated against AHS within 40 days prior to collection;

   c) were kept in an AHS free country or *zone* for at least the 40 days prior to, and at the time of, embryo collection;

2. the embryos were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Appendix 3.3.1.

Article 2.x.x.14.

When importing from AHS seasonally free *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for *in vivo* derived embryos of domestic horses

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the donor females:

    a) showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of collection of the embryos and for the following 40 days;

    b) have not been vaccinated against AHS within the 40 days prior to collection;

    c) were kept during the seasonally free period in an AHS seasonally free *zone* for at least the 40 days prior to, and at the time of, collection of the embryos;

2. the embryos were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Appendix 3.3.1.

Article 2.x.x.15.

When importing from AHS infected countries or *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for *in vivo* derived embryos of domestic horses

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the donor females:

    a) showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of collection of the semen and for the following 40 days;

    b) have not been vaccinated against AHS within the 40 days prior to collection;

    c) were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors for at least 40 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the embryos;

2. the embryos were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Appendix 3.3.1.

Article 2.x.x.16.

Protecting animals from *Culicoides* attack

When transporting equines through AHS infected countries or *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require strategies to protect animals from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHS vectors during transport, taking into account the local ecology of the vector.

Potential risk management strategies include:

1. treating animals with chemical repellents prior to and during transportation;

2. loading, transporting and unloading animals at times of low vector activity (i.e. bright sunshine and low temperature);

3. ensuring vehicles do not stop en route during dawn or dusk, or overnight, unless the animals are held behind insect proof netting;

4. darkening the interior of the vehicle, for example by covering the roof and/or sides of vehicles with shadecloth;

5. monitoring for vectors at common stopping and offloading points to gain information on seasonal variations;

6. using historical, ongoing and/or AHS modelling information to identify low risk ports and transport routes.